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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BASOM, BLAINE T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/000,150	BARRETT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Blaine Basom	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

The examiner acknowledges the Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 21, and 32. Regarding these amended claims, and the claims dependent therefrom, the Applicants subsequently argue that the prior art cited in the previous Office Action fails to teach the limitations expressed in these claims. In response, the Examiner presents the U.S. Patents of Swix et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,718,551) and Judson (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,586), which as shown below, teach the features recited in these claims. The Applicants' arguments have thus been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection presented below, which is required in response to Applicants' amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 6-8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,718,551, which is attributed to Swix et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Swix"), and also over U.S. Patent No. 6,185,586, which is attributed to Judson. In general, Swix presents a system by which targeted advertisements are delivered to users of a television set top box (for example, see column 3, line 25 – column 4, line 14). Swix particularly discloses

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that such advertisements may be banner advertisements, in addition to video advertisements delivered via a stream (see, for example, column 4, lines 38-52; and column 7, lines 19-30).

Specifically regarding claim 1, Swix teaches presenting advertisements, within a designated region, to the user as he or she navigates a menu screen (see column 10, line 34 – column 11, line 57). As these advertisements may be video advertisements, each transmitted via a stream as described above, Swix thus teaches receiving one or more video streams containing a plurality of video advertisements which begin at a plurality of distinct times, and generating a display screen having an advertisement region in which a video advertisement starting at a begin time is to be displayed. Swix additionally notes that, in some embodiments, this video advertisement may have to be downloaded before it can be displayed (see column 11, lines 34-58). Consequently, it is understood that the display screen may be generated prior to the begin time of the video advertisement, while the advertisement is being downloaded. Swix, however, does not explicitly teach that that while waiting for the begin time of the video advertisement, a banner advertisement is displayed within the advertisement region, the banner advertisement having subject matter that is related to that of the video advertisement, and that at the begin time of the video advertisement, the banner advertisement is replaced with the video advertisement, as is recited in claim 1.

Complementing the teachings of Swix, Judson discusses downloading information over a network, and notes that such downloading provides a problem in that the user must wait for the information to download (see column 1, lines 12-61 of Judson). Judson provides a solution to this problem, teaching downloading and displaying an initial graphic image related to the information in which the user is downloading, and displaying this image while the information

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continues to download (see column 1, line 64 – column 2, line 59; and column 9, lines 29-53).

Such an initial graphic image may be an advertisement, considered to be a banner advertisement (see column 9, line 29-53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Swix and Judson before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the system taught by Swix such that a banner advertisement related to the downloading video advertisement stream is displayed during the wait time of the download, as is taught by Judson. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize this combination because such intermittent advertisements provide for the display of useful information during an otherwise unused period of user “downtime,” as is taught by Judson.

Concerning claim 2, Swix teaches that the display screen by which the user is presented advertisements may comprise a menu for choosing television programming (see column 10, line 34 – column 11, line 57). Such a menu is considered an electronic program guide.

As per claims 3 and 4, in the menu display described by Swix, the region in which the advertisements are displayed is separate from the menu used to choose television programming (for example, see figure 3, and its associated description). As this menu serves the main function of the display, the advertisement region, separate from the menu, is considered to be in the background.

Concerning claim 6, it is understood that the banner advertisement of Swix and Judson is stored locally to the set-top box and its processor, for example, in a buffer or cache.

As per claims 5, 7, 8, and 10, Swix discloses that the video advertisement may be selected based on the demographic information of the viewer, and on prior viewing activities of

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the viewer (see column 4 line 66 – column 5, line 21). As the banner advertisement is related to this video advertisement, it is additionally understood that the video advertisement to be displayed is identified, the subject matter of the video advertisement is identified, a banner advertisement have related subject matter is selected, and then displayed.

Claims 9, 11, 21-28, 32-37, and 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Swix and Judson, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 6,639,608, which is attributed to Itakura. Concerning claims 5 and 9, Swix and Judson teach a method like that of claim 1, whereby a plurality of advertisements, comprising both banner and video advertisements, are transmitted from a server to a user's computer. The user's computer then displays the plurality of advertisements in sequence in an advertisement pane. As the banner and video advertisements are targeted to the particular user, as described above, it is understood that these advertisements actually displayed on the user's computer are selected from a plurality of banner and video advertisements, the banner and video advertisements selected corresponding to the demographic information of the user. Neither Swix nor Judson, however, explicitly disclose that the advertisements delivered to the client computer each comprise a trigger used to identify when the video advertisement is to be displayed, as is recited in claim 9.

Like Swix and Judson, Itakura discusses the transmission of advertisements over a network from an information provider to a user's computer, whereby the advertisements are displayed within a display pane (see column 1, line 50 – column 3, line 15; and column 10, line 8 – column 11, line 44). Regarding the claimed invention, such advertisements are delivered over

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the network in a sequence, understandably via a stream (see column 15, line 1 – column 17, line 22). Such a stream stops when all pending advertisement requests are fulfilled by the information provider (for example, see column 17, lines 15-22). A subsequent stream is then started upon any ensuing advertisement requests (see column 13, line 43 – column 15, line 37). Regarding the claimed invention, Itakura teaches that each advertisement in the stream may comprise an associated trigger, which is used to identify the time when the advertisement is to be displayed and the subject matter of the advertisement (see column 7, lines 6-45; column 10, lines 45-52; and column 11, lines 33-44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Swix, Judson and Itakura before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the system taught by Swix and Judson, such that the advertisements each advertisement comprises an associated trigger used to identify the subject matter and display time of the advertisement, as is done by Itakura. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because such features ensure that appropriate advertisements are displayed at the appropriate times, as is taught by Itakura (for example, see column 18, lines 38 – 58).

With respect to claim 11, the above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura teaches delivering a stream of advertisements from a server to a user's computer, whereby each advertisement in the stream may comprise a trigger defining a time that the advertisement is to be displayed on the display screen of the user's computer. Such advertisements are displayed within an advertisement pane of the user's computer, and upon reaching the time identified by the trigger, the advertisements transition such that the advertisement associated with the trigger is displayed in the advertisement pane. Six and Judson particularly teach that such advertisements

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may comprise both banner and video advertisements, these advertisements having related subject matter corresponding to the user's demographic information, as is discussed above. Thus with a stream having a banner advertisement followed by a video advertisement, a trigger may be received from the stream, the trigger defining a time when the video advertisement is to be displayed on the user's computer. A banner advertisement is displayed within an advertisement region upon the user's computer until the time identified by the trigger is reached, the banner advertisement having subject matter related to that of the video advertisement. Upon reaching the time identified by the trigger, the advertisement pane is transitioned between the banner advertisement and the first video advertisement to display the first video advertisement to the user.

As per claim 21, Itakura teaches that the above-described method may be implemented via a computer-readable medium (see column 6, line 60 –column 7, line 5). Such a computer-readable medium used to implement the above-described method is considered a computer product, like that recited in claim 21.

As per claims 12, 13, 25, and 26, the above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura teaches retrieving a display screen comprising an advertisement region. A banner advertisement may be retrieved from a server, and displayed within this advertisement pane, as is described above. Upon reaching the time identified by an associated trigger, the user's computer ceases the display of the banner advertisement, and replaces it with a video advertisement within the advertisement pane, as is further described above.

In reference to claims 14, 15, 23, and 24, Itakura discloses that the messages, i.e. advertisements, delivered to the user's computer comprise advertising content and a trigger, i.e.

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announcement, whereby it is understood that the advertising content comprises a data file containing the advertising content, and the trigger identifies a time in which to display the advertisement (see column 8, lines 29-43, for example). As described above, Swix and Judson further teach that such advertising content may comprise video advertising content, i.e. a package. The above-described combination of Swix, Judson and Itakura is thus considered to teach a method, like that recited in claims 14, 15, 23, and 24.

Regarding claims 16 and 27, Itakura teaches that the content provider delivering the advertisements to the user's computer analyzes the advertisements, which are deliverable to the user's computer upon a delivery stream. Specifically, each advertisement comprises a content identifier defining the type of advertising content associated with the advertisement (see column 7, lines 6-53). Additionally, the content provider identifies and maintains preferences of the user, the preferences defining which advertising content the user is more likely to watch than other types of advertising content (see column 7, lines 54-65). The content provider uses this information to retrieve advertisements in compliance with the user's preferences (see column 7, line 66 – column 8, line 6; and column 15, line 27 – column 16, line 65). As described above, Swix further teaches that such advertisements may comprise video advertisements. The above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura is thus considered to teach a method, like that recited in claim 16.

With respect to claims 17 and 28, Itakura teaches that the content provider, which delivers advertisements to the user's computer, analyzes a delivery schedule defining the time and day for delivering each advertisement (see column 7, lines 6-45; and column 15, lines 12-26). In response to analyzing the delivery schedule, the content provider identifies a currently

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viewable advertisement, the currently viewable advertisement comprising a start time, which is defined by a “display time” field, and a stop time, which is defined by a “display timer” (see column 7, lines 6-45; column 15, lines 12-26; column 8, lines 50-63; and column 10, lines 8-67). It is understood that this process repeats in order to deliver a plurality of advertisements to the user’s computer, or in other words, to identify the next available advertisements viewable after the stop time of the currently viewable advertisement. As described above, Swix further teaches that such advertisements may comprise video advertisements. The above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura is thus considered to teach a method, like that recited in claim 17.

In regard to claim 22, Swix discloses that the advertisements displayed on the user’s computer comprise related subject matter corresponding to the user’s demographic information (for example, see column 4, line 66 – column 5, line 21). As the banner and video advertisements are targeted to the particular user, it is understood that the advertisements actually displayed on the user’s computer are selected from a plurality of banner and video advertisements, the banner and video advertisements selected corresponding to the demographic information of the user. Swix and Judson thus teach selecting a banner advertisement from a plurality of banner advertisements, the selected banner advertisement having subject matter which satisfies the user’s demographic information. Consequently, the banner advertisement necessarily comprises some sort of banner content identifier, in addition to advertising content. The above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura is thus considered to present a computer product, like that recited in claim 22.

In reference to claim 32, the above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura teaches: receiving one or more video streams containing a plurality of video advertisements

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which begin at a plurality of distinct times; retrieving preference data from a data source, the preference data representing viewing selections of the viewer; generating a display screen having an advertisement region in which at least one video advertisement starting at a begin time is to be displayed, the display screen being generated prior to the begin time of the first video advertisement; displaying a first banner advertisement on the display device, the first banner advertisement displaying advertising content in compliance with the preference data; identifying a plurality of video advertisements deliverable to the processor by a plurality of video streams, each video advertisement of the plurality of video advertisements comprising video advertising content, at least one trigger, and a video content identifier; analyzing each of the plurality of video streams to identify at least one video advertisement of the plurality of video advertisements comprising the video content identifier in compliance with the preference data; and in response to analyzing the video content identifier of the at least one video advertisement, transitioning between the first banner advertisement and the at least one video advertisement of the plurality of video advertisements to display the video advertising content to the viewer, as is described above in the discussions concerning claims 7, 8, 11, and 16. Swix further discloses that such a method may be implemented in a network environment (see figure 1, and its associated description in column 6, line 25 – column 7, line 30). Such a network implementing the above-described method of Swix, Judson, and Itakura is considered a system, like that described in claim 32.

Concerning claim 33, the above-described data source is understood to be maintained via a server (for example, see column 6, line 25 – column 7, line 30 of Swix), which is therefore considered remote to the processor of the client set-top box processor.

As per claim 34, Itakura teaches selecting an advertisement based upon the demographic information of the user (for example, see column 15, line 38 – column 16, line 65).

Consequently, the preference data, by which advertisements are chosen to be sent to the viewer, is defined by the demographic information relating to the viewer of the advertisement.

In regard to claim 35, Swix discloses that the advertisements displayed on the user's computer comprise related subject matter corresponding to the user's demographic information (see column 4, line 66 – column 5, line 21). As the banner and video advertisements are targeted to the particular user, it is understood that the advertisements actually displayed on the user's computer are selected from a plurality of banner and video advertisements, the banner and video advertisements selected corresponding to the demographic information of the user. Swix and Judson thus teach selecting a banner advertisement from a plurality of banner advertisements, the selected banner advertisement having subject matter which satisfies the user's demographic information. Consequently, the banner advertisement necessarily comprises some sort of banner content identifier identify the banner advertisement type, in addition to advertising content. The above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura is thus considered to present a computer system, like that recited in claim 35.

As per claims 36 and 37, the above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura teaches retrieving a display screen comprising an advertisement box. A banner advertisement may be retrieved from a remote source, namely a server, and displayed within this advertisement box, as is described above. Upon reaching the time identified by an associated trigger, the user's computer ceases the display of the banner advertisement, and replaces it with a video advertisement within the advertisement pane, as is further described above.

Referring to claim 40, Itakura teaches that each advertisement in a video stream may comprise an associated trigger, which is used to identify the time when the advertisement is to be displayed and the subject matter of the advertisement (see column 7, lines 6-45; column 10, lines 45-52; and column 11, lines 33-44).

With respect to claim 41, Itakura teaches that the content provider delivering the advertisements to the user's computer analyzes the advertisements, which are deliverable to the user's computer upon a delivery stream. Specifically, each advertisement comprises a content identifier defining the type of advertising content associated with the advertisement (see column 7, lines 6-53). Additionally, the content provider identifies and maintains preferences of the user, the preferences defining which advertising content the user is more likely to watch than other types of advertising content (see column 7, lines 54-65). The content provider uses this information to retrieve advertisements in compliance with the user's preferences (see column 7, line 66 – column 8, line 6; and column 15, line 27 – column 16, line 65). As described above, Swix further teaches that such advertisements may comprise video advertisements. The above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Itakura is thus considered to teach a method, like that recited in claim 41.

Regarding claim 42, as Swix and Judson teaches that the advertisements delivered to the user's computer may comprise both banner advertisements and video advertisements, as is described above, and that a plurality of advertisements may be delivered to the user's computer, it is understood that another banner advertisement and another video advertisement may follow a first banner advertisement and video advertisement sent to the user's computer. As described above, such advertisements are chosen for display to the viewer based on their content identifier,

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specifically based on their content identifier being in compliance with the user's preference data. Thus in the case where another banner advertisement and another video advertisement follows a first banner advertisement and video advertisement, a second banner advertisement having banner content identifier in compliance with the preference data is identified in response to transitioning between the first banner advertisement and the video advertisement; a second video advertisement having a video content identifier in compliance with the user's preference data is identified; and the first video advertisement transitions to the second banner advertisement, which transitions to the second video advertisement.

Claims 11, 18-21, 29-31, and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Swix and Judson, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 6,137,834, which is attributed to Wine et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Wine"). Specifically regarding claims 11 and 18, Swix and Judson teach a method whereby a sequence of advertisements are displayed delivered to a client set-top box, and whereby the advertisements are displayed in an advertisement region, as is described above in the rejection for claim 1. As further described above, the display of a banner advertisement followed by a video advertisement having subject matter related to the banner advertisement. Thus regarding claim 11, Swix and Judson teach displaying a first banner advertisement, which is replaced with a video advertisement. Neither Swix nor Judson, however, explicitly disclose that the video advertisement comprises a start and stop trigger configured to identify the time when the video advertisement content is to start and cease being displayed upon the display device, respectively, and a plurality of other triggers, whereby the plurality of other triggers are tracked in order to

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identify the time remaining from the current time until the stop trigger is to be received by the processor, and whereupon receiving the stop trigger the first video advertisement transitions to another advertisement, as is recited in claims 11 and 18.

Concerning the teachings of Swix and Judson, Wine discusses the transmission of video segments, whereby the video segments are from separate streams, which are spliced together into a single transport stream to be delivered to a client (see column 1, line 19 – column 2, line 15). Wine particularly discloses that each such segment comprises an “in-point,” and “out-point,” and a plurality of other triggers (see column 4, lines 1-46). During the splice operation, a first such video segment is analyzed to determine its in-point, and the other triggers are tracked via a “count-down feature” to determine the time remaining until the out-point is received by the processor (for example, see column 13, line 58 – column 14, line 15). The out-point designates a time whereby the segment may be seamlessly spliced to another segment (see column 3, lines 10-19). Such an in-point is consequently considered a start trigger, and an out-point is considered a stop trigger.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Swix, Judson, and Wine before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the video advertising segments taught by Swix and Judson to include the in-point, out-point, and other triggers of Wine. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because such triggers may be used to seamlessly splice advertising segments, without gaps between the segments, as is taught by Wine (for example, see column 1, lines 41-56).

As per claims 21 and 29, Swix teaches that the above-described method may be implemented via a server (for example, see column 6, line 25 – column 7, line 30). As known in the art, servers comprise a computer-readable medium comprising various programming instructions. Such a computer-readable medium used to implement the above-described method is considered a computer product, like that recited in claims 21 and 29.

As per claim 19, Swix teaches a method whereby video advertisements are delivered to a client computer, and whereby the advertisements are displayed in an advertisement region, as is described above in the rejection for claim 1. As further described above, a banner advertisement may be displayed within the region, followed by a video advertisement having subject matter related to the banner advertisement. It is understood that this video advertisement may be displayed for a predetermined amount of time, whereupon it is replaced by another advertisement, such as another video advertisement. Consequently, the above-described combination of Swix, Judson and Wine is considered to teach the method recited in claim 19.

In reference to claim 20 and 31, Swix and Judson teach that a second video advertisement or banner advertisement may follow a first displayed advertisement, as is described in the previous paragraph. Wine further teaches that each video segment may be on a different video stream, and may comprise a start and stop trigger, the stop trigger defining a time to transition between the segments (for example, see column 3, lines 10-19). Consequently, the above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Wine is considered to teach identifying a second video advertisement from a second video stream, the second video advertisement comprising video advertising content and at least one trigger, where in response to receiving a stop trigger, the advertisement pane is transitioned between a first video advertisement, or banner

advertisement, and a second video advertisement to display the video advertisement content to the viewer.

Regarding claim 30, Wine teaches that each video segment comprises a plurality of triggers, which are tracked to determine the time remaining to the end of the segment, as is described above. Consequently, these triggers are considered to divide the segment into a plurality of time segments, which are tracked to determine the number of segments remaining to be played to the viewer. The above-described combination of Swix, Judson, and Wine thus presents a computer product, like that recited in claim 30.

As per claims 38 and 39, Wine teaches that video streams may be MPEG streams (for example, see column 1, lines 19-56).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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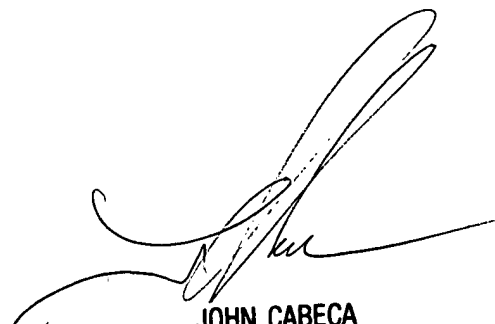
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571) 272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

btb



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 2100